



wisconsin department of
children & families

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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Early Care and Education
Bureau of Quality Improvement

Date

Name

Address

City, WI ZIP

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Making an informed choice about who will care for your children while you are at work is one of the most difficult and important decisions a family can make. For this reason, we created YoungStar, Wisconsin's Quality Rating and Improvement System for child care. Now, in addition to talking to other parents and consulting with your local child care resource and referral agency, you can "look for the stars" when selecting a child care provider.

Our records show your provider ENTER PROVIDER NAME HERE is currently rated ENTER STAR RATING HERE.

The star rating is based upon several factors including the provider's education and training, the learning environment and health practices in the program, and the business practices of the provider. Provider's who accepts Wisconsin Shares are required to participate in YoungStar. Providers are rated once per year on a five-star scale and their Wisconsin Shares reimbursement rate will be affected by their star rating beginning July 1, 2012. If your program is participating but not yet rated, this means they have not received their YoungStar rating and does not reflect the quality of the child care provider. We anticipate that they will receive their rating in the near future.

We have created a tool to help you understand what the star rating means called ***Reading the Stars***. We encourage you to review this document and have a conversation with your provider about his or her rating. It is available online at:

http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/reading_the_stars_electronic.pdf

Reading the Stars is also available from your Local YoungStar Office. Your Local YoungStar Office is also available to answer any other questions you have about YoungStar. To find your Local YoungStar Office, see the map at the following website: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/map/default.htm>, or by calling this toll-free phone number: **1-888-713-KIDS (5437)**

Sincerely,

Laura Saterfield
Bureau Director